

August 4, 2009

TO: Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health and Human Services
Interested Parties
Subcommittee Staff

FROM: Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Co-Chairpersons Senator Jack Hatch and Representative Lisa Heddens and Ranking Members Senator David Johnson and Representative David Heaton

RE: Stakeholder task force to address the service system administered by counties for adult mental health and developmental disabilities (MH/DD) services

Task Force. Under 2009 Iowa Acts, House File 811, §56, the joint subcommittee chairpersons and ranking members are required to consult in appointing a task force of stakeholders for the 2009 Legislative Interim to address both funding and service issues associated with the service system administered by counties for adult mental health and developmental disabilities services. Due to the current budget situation, funding is not available for per diem and expenses for a task force. Instead, we hope the subcommittee members, particularly those who served on the two related subcommittees during the 2009 Session, will serve as the task force and hold a meeting during the late fall. A tentative schedule for the work group process is attached.

Work Group. In preparation for the late fall task force meeting, we have asked legislative staff to form a work group to develop materials and options and receive input from those interested in MH/DD services for discussion and review at the meeting. We anticipate the work group will hold both planning and input meetings in preparing options.

The work group process will be coordinated by Legislative Services Agency and Caucus staff. Although the work group size will be kept small so the process does not bog down, we anticipate the use of an open process that allows written and oral input from anyone who is interested. In addition to legislative staff, the following will be represented on the work group:

- Department of Human Services - Medicaid, MH/DD, Other (3)
- Iowa State Association of Counties - association staff and CPCs (3)
- Service Providers - Association of Community Providers and other (2)
- Consumers and Advocates (2)

(we anticipate the MH/MR/DD/BI Commission will be represented among the above)

Options. We are asking the work group to develop short and long term options for reforming the adult MH/DD services system and funding, including the following:

1. The current funding environment and temporary availability of federal stimulus package moneys may affect the county MH/DD service fund ending balances used for the distribution of allowed growth and risk pool funding. Provide options to address funding eligibility requirements, including ending balances, distribution requirements, and other elements.
2. The prospects for significant new state funding in the next few years are limited, federal funding availability is unknown, and local funding options are capped. Provide options for pilot projects that will use existing funding more efficiently and allow testing of new funding options.

Adult Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Service System Work Group Nominations - Tentative Schedule

Nominations. The Co-Chairpersons and Ranking Members have identified the following slots for work group membership:

- Department of Human Services - Medicaid, MH/DD, Other (3)
- Iowa State Association of Counties - association staff and CPCs (3)
- Service Providers - Association of Community Providers and other (2)
- Consumers and Advocates (2)

(we anticipate the MH/MR/DD/BI Commission will be represented among the above)

Knowledgeable individuals and organizations are invited to provide nominations. Organizations that would fit into any membership slot are invited to submit the names of two nominees, one male and one female, for each membership slot for which the organization is proposing nominees. The Legislative Council's guidelines for non-legislative appointments require that the appointments be gender balanced. A list of all nominations received from individuals and organizations will be forwarded to the Co-Chairpersons and Ranking Members for selection of members. Submission of nominations does not guarantee that a nominee will be chosen for membership.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to John Pollak, Legislative Services Agency, Statehouse, Des Moines, IA 50319 or john.pollak@legis.state.ia.us. Nominations should be submitted on or before Thursday, August 13, 2009. Nominations should identify the membership category or categories appropriate for each nominee, and include postal and electronic mail addresses, telephone numbers, and other contact information for each nominee.

Tentative Schedule

- Week of August 3, 2009: Distribution of Co-Chairpersons' memo and request for Work Group nominees
- Thursday, August 13, 2009: Names and contact information for Work Group nominees to LSA for compilation and distribution to Co-Chairpersons and Ranking Members
- Week of August 17, 2009: Co-Chairpersons, in consultation with Ranking Members, select Work Group membership
- Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Initial work group meeting
- Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Second Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Third Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Fourth Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Fifth Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Sixth Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: Seventh and Final Work Group meeting
- Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m.: Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services meeting to consider options developed by the Work Group